



RON CHAPMAN, MD, MPH  
Director & State Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**



EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.  
Governor

December 30, 2013  
Certified Mail/Return  
Receipt Requested  
7009 1680 0001 3114 5530

Chester PUD  
P.O. Box 503  
Chester, CA 96020

Attention: Andy Capella – Acting Manager

**Subject: Public Water System No. 3210009 – Citation 01-02-13(C)018  
September 2013 and October 2013 Exceedance of the Bacteriological  
Maximum Contaminant Level**

Enclosed is a citation issued to the Chester Public Utilities District (District). The citation is being issued because the District failed to comply with the drinking water standard for total coliform bacteria during September 2013 and October 2013. Please be aware that the Directives section of the citation contains required actions that must be taken by the District to return to compliance.

Note that Section 116577 of the California Safe Drinking Water Act provides for our Department to be reimbursed by the public water system for costs incurred for preparing and issuing a citation to that system. In accordance with Section 116577, the Company will be billed for the preparation and issuance of this citation. Our current costs are approximately \$126 per hour. The estimated time to prepare the citation is one hour.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call staff engineer Steve Watson at (530) 224-4828 or me at (530) 224-4800.

Michael J. McNamara, P.E.  
Lassen District Engineer  
DRINKING WATER FIELD  
OPERATIONS BRANCH

Enclosures

cc: Plumas County Environmental Health Department

sww \ 3210009 Chester PUD \ File: Enforcement

1 **Citation No. 01-02-13(C)018**

2  
3 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
4 **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

5  
6 **Public Water System:** Chester Public Utilities District

7 **Water System No.:** 3210009

8  
9 **To:** Chester Public Utilities District  
10 Attention: Andy Capella, Operator/Supervisor  
11 P.O. Box 503  
12 Chester, CA 96020

13  
14 **Issued:** December 30, 2013  
15 VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

16  
17 **CITATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**  
18 **With Title 22 California Code of Regulations**  
19 **Section 64426.1(b)**

20  
21 Section 116650 of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC) authorizes the  
22 issuance of a citation for failure to comply with a requirement of the California Safe  
23 Drinking Water Act (CHSC, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4, commencing with  
24 Section 116270), or any regulation, standard, permit, or order issued thereunder.

25  
26 The Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management of the California  
27 Department of Public Health (Department) hereby issues a citation to the Chester



1 Public Utilities District (District) for failure to comply with Section 64426.1(b), Title 22,  
2 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

3  
4 **APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES**

5 Section 116650 of the CHSC states in relevant part:

6  
7 (a) If the department determines that a public water system is in  
8 violation of this chapter or any regulation, permit, standard, citation,  
9 or order issued or adopted thereunder, the department may issue a  
10 citation to the public water system. The citation shall be served upon  
11 the public water system personally or by certified mail. Service shall  
12 be deemed effective as of the date of personal service or the date of  
13 receipt of the certified mail. If a person to whom a citation is directed  
14 refuses to accept delivery of the certified mail, the date of service  
15 shall be deemed to be the date of mailing.

16  
17 (b) Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe the nature of the  
18 violation or violations, including a reference to the statutory  
19 provision, standard, order, citation, permit, or regulation alleged to  
20 have been violated.

21  
22 (c) A citation may specify a date for elimination or correction of the  
23 condition constituting the violation.

24  
25 (d) A citation may include the assessment of a penalty as specified in  
26 subdivision (e).

1 (e) The department may assess a penalty in an amount not to exceed  
2 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day that a violation  
3 occurred, and for each day that a violation continues to occur. A  
4 separate penalty may be assessed for each violation.

5  
6 Section 64426.1(b), Title 22, of the CCR states in relevant part:

7  
8 (b) A public water system is in violation of the total coliform MCL  
9 [maximum contaminant level] when any of the following  
10 occurs:

11  
12 (1) For a public water system which collects at least 40  
13 samples per month, more than 5.0 percent of the  
14 samples collected during any month are total coliform-  
15 positive; or

16  
17 (2) For a public water system which collects fewer than 40  
18 samples per month, more than one sample collected  
19 during any month is total coliform-positive; or

20  
21 (3) Any repeat sample is fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-  
22 positive; or

23  
24 (4) Any repeat sample following a fecal coliform-positive  
25 or E. coli-positive routine sample is total coliform-  
26 positive.  
27



**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The Chester Public Utilities District's (District) domestic water system is classified as a community water system serving approximately 2645 year-round residents through 1,199 service connections. As such, the District is required to collect four routine bacteriological samples per month according to Section 64423 of Title 22, of the CCR. The District's water system consists of four untreated groundwater wells and two 500,000-gallon capacity storage tanks, and the distribution system that consists of one pressure zone.

On September 18, 2013, the District collected a routine sample from the distribution system that contained total coliform bacteria. On September 19, 2013, four repeat samples were collected from the distribution system, three of which were found to contain total coliform bacteria. On September 20, 2013, one sample was collected from each of the District's active sources. All of these samples were absent of total coliform bacteria. The District then performed a visual inspection of all well sources and storage tanks. No obvious signs of contamination were found. The District then flushed the system extensively between September 21, 2013, and September 23, 2013. On September 24, 2013 another set of four repeat samples were collected from the same locations as the previous repeat samples. All of these samples were negative for total coliform bacteria.

On September 25, 2013, the District collected a routine sample from the distribution system that contained total coliform bacteria. On September 26, 2013, four repeat samples and a sample from each of the District's four active sources were collected. None of these samples were found to contain total coliform bacteria. During the month of September 2013, none of the samples that contained total coliform bacteria



1 tested positive for E. coli. Therefore, for the month of September 2013, five samples  
2 were found to contain total coliform bacteria.

3  
4 On October 2, 9, and 16, 2013, the District collected one routine bacteriological  
5 sample on each day from the distribution system. All of these samples were absent  
6 of total coliform bacteria. However, a routine sample collected on October 23, 2013,  
7 was found to contain total coliform bacteria. Three repeat samples were then  
8 collected on October 24, 2013, two of which were found to contain total coliform  
9 bacteria. All of the District's wells were sampled on the same day, and were absent  
10 of total coliform bacteria. The distribution system was then flushed in order to  
11 remove the contamination from the water system. Three samples were collected on  
12 October 28, 2013, one of which was found to contain total coliform bacteria. The  
13 District continued to flush the distribution system. On October 30, 2013, seven  
14 additional samples were collected in the distribution system and one of the samples  
15 was found to contain total coliform bacteria. After notifying customers several days in  
16 advance, the District disinfected the water distribution system on November 5, 2013,  
17 using sodium hypochlorite, dosing the system to a free chlorine residual level of 1.0-  
18 ppm. Since that time, routine samples have been absent of total coliform bacteria,  
19 indicating that the contamination has been eliminated.

## 20 21 **DETERMINATIONS**

22 The Department has determined that the District violated Section 64426.1(b)(2), Title  
23 22, of the CCR, in that the District exceeded the total coliform MCL during the months  
24 of September 2013 and October 2013.

## 25 26 **DIRECTIVES**

27 The District is hereby directed to take the following actions:



- 1
- 2 1. Comply with Section 64426.1, Title 22, of the CCR in all future monitoring
- 3 periods.
- 4
- 5 2. Within 30 days of the issuance of this Citation, notify all persons served by the
- 6 Company of the MCL violation as required by Section 64463.4 and Section
- 7 64465, Title 22, of the CCR. Notification shall be completed in accordance with
- 8 each of the following:
- 9
- 10 a. Mail or direct delivery of the notice contained in Attachment 'A' to each
- 11 customer receiving a bill including those that provide their drinking
- 12 water to others (e.g., schools or school systems, apartment building
- 13 owners, or large private employers), and other service connections to
- 14 which water is delivered by the District.
- 15
- 16 b. Provide the notice contained in Attachment 'A' to customers using one
- 17 or more of the following methods to reach persons not likely to be
- 18 reached by a mailing or direct delivery:
- 19
- 20 i. Publication in a local newspaper,
- 21 ii. Posting in conspicuous public places within the service area,
- 22 iii. Posting on the Internet, or
- 23 iv. Delivery to community organizations.
- 24

25 Changes and/or modifications to Attachment 'A' shall be not be made

26 unless approved by the Department.

27



1 3. Complete and return Attachment 'B' "Certification of Completion of Public  
2 Notification" form within 10 days of giving public notice. A copy of the notice  
3 used to provide public notification shall be attached to the form.

4  
5 All documents required by this Citation to be submitted to the Department shall be  
6 submitted to the following address:

7  
8 Michael J. McNamara, P. E.

9 Lassen District Engineer

10 Drinking Water Field Operations

11 Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management

12 Department of Public Health

13 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101

14 Redding, CA 96002

15 (530) 224-4800  
16

17 Nothing in this Citation relieves the District of its obligation to meet the requirements  
18 of Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4 (California Safe Drinking  
19 Water Act), or any regulation, permit, standard or order issued or adopted  
20 thereunder.

21  
22 The Department reserves the right to make such modifications to this Citation, as it  
23 may deem necessary to protect public health and safety. Such modifications may be  
24 issued as amendments to this Citation and shall be effective upon issuance.  
25  
26  
27





**FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

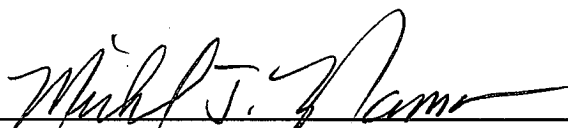
Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4, (commencing with section 116270) of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes the Department to: issue additional citations with assessment of penalties if the District continues to fail to correct a violation identified in a citation; take action to suspend or revoke a permit that has been issued to a public water system if the system has violated applicable law or regulations or has failed to comply with orders of the Department; and petition the superior court to take various enforcement measures against a public water system that has failed to comply with orders of the Department. The Department does not waive any further enforcement action by issuance of this Citation.

**PARTIES BOUND**

This Citation shall apply to and be binding upon the District, its officers, directors, agents, employees, contractors, successors, and assignees.

**SEVERABILITY**

The directives of this Citation are severable, and the District shall comply with each and every provision thereof notwithstanding the effectiveness of any other provision.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. McNamara, P.E., District Engineer  
Lassen District  
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

12/30/2013  
Date

**Attachments:**

- 'A' Public Notification Template
- 'B' Certification of Completion



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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### Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in the Chester PUD Domestic Water System

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Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants in the water system. During September 2013, we collected twelve samples from our water system to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Five of these samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. During October 2013, we collected seventeen samples from our water system to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Five of these samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one sample per month may show the presence of coliform bacteria.

#### What Should You Do?

**You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

#### What Does This Mean?

This is not an emergency. If it were, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliform bacteria are a signal that there may be a problem with our source of supply, storage, or distribution systems. Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.

#### What Happened? What Was Done?

In mid-September 2013, a routine sample collected from the distribution system was found to contain total coliform bacteria. After repeat samples confirmed the presence of the bacteria, we tested our well sources and inspected our storage tanks and found no obvious signs of contamination. We then began flushing the distribution system in order to eliminate the contamination. We continued to flush the system through the month of October 2013, but could not eliminate the bacteria through flushing alone. The levels of total coliform bacteria found in the distribution system were at the lowest level detectable. On November 5, 2013, the District disinfected the entire distribution system, including the storage tanks. This appears to have eliminated the contamination since all bacteriological samples collected since then have been absent of total coliform bacteria.

For more information please contact Andy Capella, Chester PUD, at 259-2162.

This notice is being provided to you by the Chester PUD in compliance with the California Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations as a means of keeping the public informed.

**Public Water System Name** Chester PUD

Date \_\_\_\_\_